



Research Grant Award

www.alia.org.au/awards

The Award

ALIA invites members to apply for a research grant of up to **\$10,000** to support innovative research projects that strengthen library and information services in Australia.

The Research Grant Award is open to library practitioners and early career LIS researchers¹ who are Personal Members of ALIA. The review committee encourages projects from practitioners or that involve both a practitioner and a researcher².

The purpose of the award is to enable the recipient to undertake a research program on a selected library or information issue of present and future relevance to the development and improvement of library and information services in Australia. The research may include preliminary work, local or overseas visits and/or consultations, attachment to another organisation, preparation of a publication, etc. It is expected that the research project will provide an opportunity for self development as well as benefit the recipient's institution and present position.

Award recipients will be required to:

- Provide quarterly reports to the ALIA Research Advisory Committee detailing work undertaken, milestones met and reconciliation of expenses.
- Submit the final report to the ALIA Research Advisory Committee within four months of the completion date of the research project. If this deadline cannot be met the recipient will advise the ALIA Research Committee within three months of the completion date of the reasons for the delay and propose an alternative submission date for the report.
- Prepare a scholarly report which may be published in the *Australian Library Journal*, *Australian Academic and Research Libraries* or other ALIA publication within six months of the completion date of the research project. The dissemination/publication strategy for the research project should be discussed with the appointed mentor and/or the ALIA Research

¹ As a guide, Early Career Researchers (ECR) are researchers who are within five years of the start of their research careers when they submit their applications. This normally means that you have been awarded a PhD or equivalent research doctorate within five years, however, an extension to this limit may be approved owing to significant career interruptions ([Australian Research Council](#)).

² Research students may apply to fund a component of their study conducted as part of their university course. In this case, the study component must be defined as a distinct project. Members of the ALIA Research Advisory Committee are eligible to apply but will not be present in meetings when research awards are discussed.



Advisory Committee. Any publications describing work that has been wholly or partially supported by an ALIA Research Award will make due acknowledgement of such support.

- Make a presentation on the completed research and outcomes at an appropriate ALIA conference or event and be prepared to assume all costs associated with attendance at such an event.
- Provide a follow-up report within 12 months of completion of the project detailing how the outcomes of the project have been applied for the benefit of the individual, institution and the profession.

In awarding the research grant, ALIA reserves the right to make broad adjustments to the proposed project to ensure optimal relevance for the Association and the wider profession.

Who can submit?

The ALIA Research Grant is open to those who are current financial personal members. This award is offered biennially.

What is the submission process?

Applicants are required to fill in parts 1 and 2 of the application form. The first part of the selection process is carried out 'blind', with the panel shortlisting projects without knowing the identity of the applicant(s). The final decision is based on full disclosure of parts 1 and 2.

Entries are open from March to June every two years, on the even-numbered year. The assessment process takes approximately eight weeks, with the successful candidate confirmed in September.

Who assesses nominations?

Applications are considered by the ALIA Research Advisory Committee for recommendation to the Board of Directors.

How are recipients told of their award?

Recipients are informed of the conferment of an award by email and letter.

How to lodge a nomination

Nominations are to be marked confidential. Nominations may be lodged by email to: awards@alia.org.au



Applications must be received by ALIA by the nominated closing date. Entries will not be accepted after the advertised closing date.

All applications require a date and signature.

More information or help

If you have any further questions, please contact awards@alia.org.au.

Grant recipients are required to meet the terms and conditions listed on pages 1 and 2 of this document but there are four ways in which they might fail to meet these:

- **Void:** project cannot be delivered in any form, through a change in circumstances.
- **Delayed response:** not abiding by the timeline.
- **Incomplete:** failure to submit reports, articles and/or make a presentation.
- **Quality:** the work is not of an appropriate standard.

The Research Advisory Committee, aided by ALIA staff, will work with grant recipients to try to overcome difficulties that arise during the research project. It is recognised that timelines cannot always be met and that research may take an unlikely turn. Grant recipients will receive mentoring support to overcome any obstacles.

If, after repeated contact, the grant recipient is unable or unwilling to comply with the terms and conditions of the award, additional measures (see forfeiture of award) may be required and the Research Advisory Committee can recommend a course of action to the ALIA Board.

Void

If a research project cannot be delivered, the Research Advisory Committee can recommend to the ALIA Board that the grant be rescinded.

Delayed response and incomplete

If the recipient does not fulfil the terms of the grant, after being given reasonable extensions to the timeline ('reasonable' to be determined by the Research Advisory Committee), the committee can recommend to the ALIA Board some form of appropriate financial penalty, which is likely to be the withholding of the unexpended balance of the award.

Quality

If the project has been delivered in full, but, after mentoring and support, the quality of the work is still not of a standard acceptable to the *Australian Library Journal* and *Australian Academic and Research Libraries* editors for publication or a conference committee for presentation, the



grant will stand, but alternative methods of dissemination will be considered by the Research Advisory Committee.

Forfeiture of awards

The unexpended balance of any award may at the absolute discretion of the committee be forfeited by the recipient in the following cases:

1. In the event of the recipient not fulfilling any conditions that may be attached to the terms of the award.
2. In the event of the recipient for any reason whatsoever being prevented from continuing their research.
3. In the event that the recipient does not utilise the award within 12 months of its acceptance.

All applications will become the property of ALIA and will be kept confidential. Only the details of the successful applications will be made public.

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